



Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Webinar Series

Homelessness Prevention:
Homelessness Prevention & the
End of the Eviction Moratorium
July 30, 2021

[Link to Audio](#)

Presenters

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Office Hour Format

- Office Hour will last approximately 1 hour
- Participants' phone connections are “muted” due to the high number of callers
- Questions can also be submitted via the Question box during the Office Hour or anytime to SSVF@va.gov

Our Agenda

Welcome!

National SSVF Program Office Update

Eviction Moratorium Expiration

Revisiting Local HP Strategies

Homelessness Prevention Updates

Questions

The CDC Eviction Moratorium Set to Expire on July 31, 2021

- Moratorium in place since March 2020
 - Cares Act moratorium from March 27, 2020 to August 23, 2020
 - CDC Moratorium since September 4, 2020
- Be aware that a small number of states and municipalities may have moratoriums in place beyond 7/31. Find more details [here](#).

Reminder: SSVF Dual Mission

Rapid Re-housing for Homeless Households

- Literally homeless Veterans face greatest vulnerability
- Grantees must ensure RRH demand can be met before HP

Homelessness Prevention for Imminent Risk

- Stage 1 allows for enrollment and services (rapid resolution, service, mediation, coordinated referrals)
- Stage 2 allows for full TFA assistance if needed to prevent entry into homelessness

Rental Assistance Can Help Support Veterans At-Risk of Homelessness

- The long-term economic impact of COVID-19 may mean more Veterans are behind on rent and/or at risk of homelessness
- Due to the length of the moratorium many more housed Veterans may be at “imminent risk”
- Cares Act and American Rescue Plan greatly expanded available resources

Screening Into SSVF

- Lifting of moratorium is anticipated to create significant demand for assistance
- Where capacity allows, screen in using Stage 1 enrollment to provide services and other referrals
- Veterans who don't qualify for full HP financial assistance (Stage 2) may still benefit from program support and coordinated referrals
- Landlord mediation and connection to other rental assistance programs can be key to helping Veterans sustain housing
- Notify Regional Coordinator if need to adjust Stage 2 Threshold Score

Keeping Tools in Mind

Housing Problem Solving Strategies: Crisis intervention for eligible Veterans who appear to need shelter or transitional housing, or who will otherwise be unsheltered tonight, focused on avoiding imminent shelter or GPD entry or unsheltered homelessness.

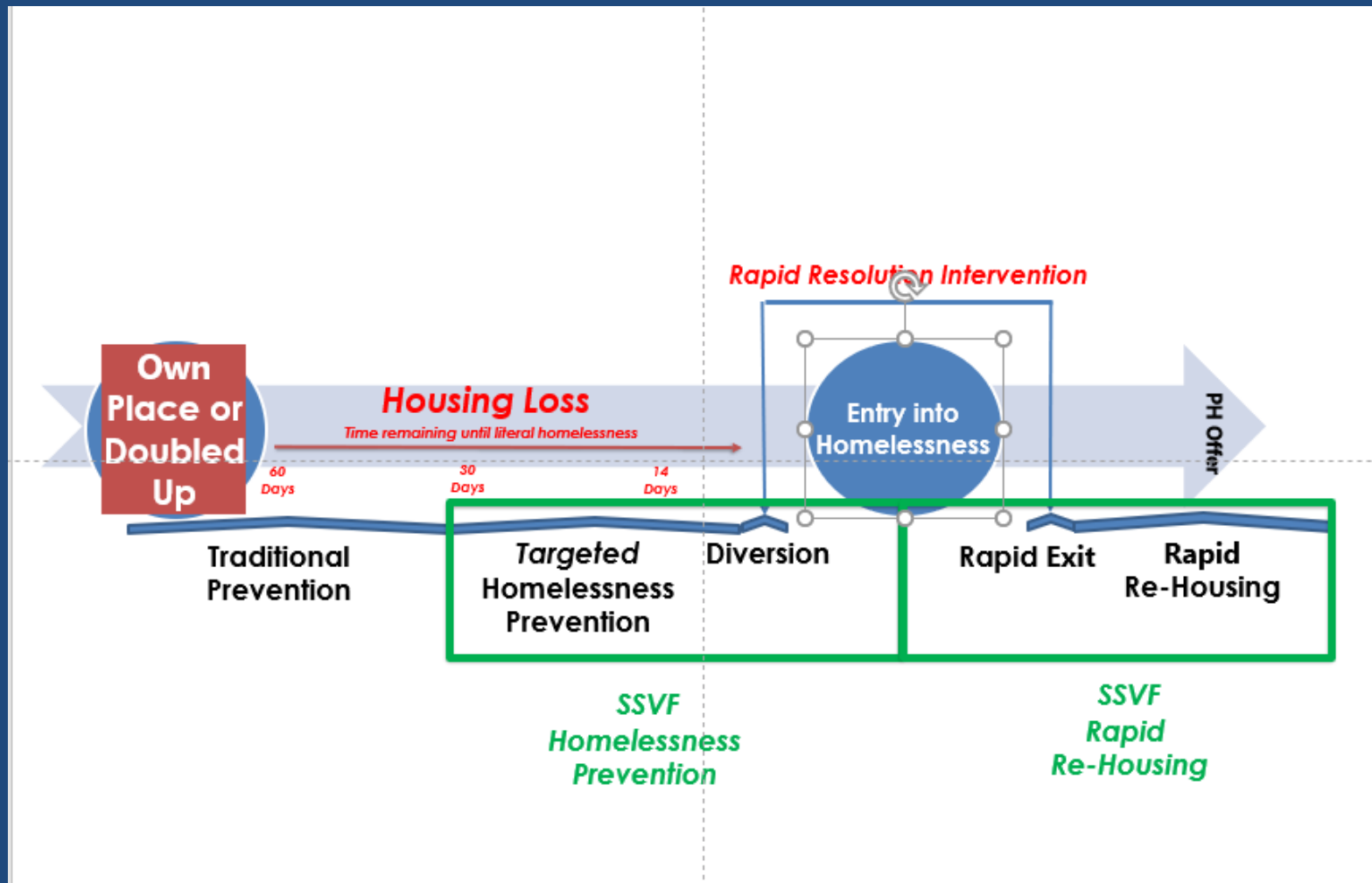
Rapid Resolution Services: Specific SSVF allowable activities, including HPS and targeted TFA, used to support Veterans without a lease in their name or those that DO NOT meet the Stage 2 threshold in avoiding homelessness, even in temporary housing situations.

Targeted Homelessness Prevention: Short to medium-term intervention and stabilization supports for eligible Veterans who have less than 30 days left in *any* safe, available housing – ***including doubled up options*** – and have no other resources “but for” SSVF to avoid imminent literal homelessness.

Reminders About Homelessness Prevention

- Homelessness Prevention is **NOT** the same as eviction prevention.
- ***Diversion*** is the most targeted form of prevention
- When limited, HP resources must focus on those who will become homeless and are most vulnerable – **use Stage 2 to prioritize when needed**

Housing Problem Solving and Rapid Resolution Services



Adjusting HP Assistance Relative to Demand

- To the extent all Veterans needs for RRH are addressed, increase dedicated capacity for homelessness prevention to further reduce inflow
- Ensure proactive outreach and in reach strategies that promote equity-driven enrollments and services
- Identify decision points and program adjustments that may be needed as prevention demand increases
- Consider periodic (e.g., quarterly or semi-annual) review and rebalance process to examine demand vs resources

Equity-Driven Prevention Strategies

For Effective Outreach and Engagement

- You can't reach those in the most need without a targeted outreach strategy including proactive outreach to immigrant services, faith-based organizations, culturally-specific organizations and neighborhoods with high-rates of housing instability
- Utilize the screening process to ensure the connection to available services in situations where Veterans don't meet the local HP threshold
- Meaningfully engage with those with lived expertise to support effective outreach

Equity-Driven Prevention Strategies

To Understand and Address Inequities

- Utilize the SSVF Equity Report to disaggregate prevention outcomes by race and ethnicity to better understand disparities in
 - Access
 - Enrollments and access to TFA
 - Exits
- Create a plan to address disparities and monitor progress regularly

Partnerships to Support Veterans At-Risk

- Emergency Rental Assistance Program
- ESG-CV Homelessness Prevention
- Survey Your Local Landscape to Understand Other Opportunities

Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)

Two tranches of funding totaling \$46B

- ERA1 and ERA2 are targeted toward households who:
 - have qualified for unemployment benefits or experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced other financial hardship during or due, directly or indirectly, to the pandemic;
 - can demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability (including those who have lost housing); and
 - has a household income below 80% AMI
- ERA1 funds generally expire on September 30, 2022
- ERA2 funds generally Expire September 30, 2025
- Find programs by state [here](#)

Getting ERAP to Those in Need

- ERAP programs have struggled to move quickly to respond to demand for rental assistance
- SSVF should, to the extent possible and where appropriate, support at-risk Veterans in accessing or applying for Treasury ERAP funds before utilizing SSVF Temporary Financial Assistance.
- SSVF can assist Veterans in accessing ERAP assistance for arrears while providing direct supportive services to the household
- Veterans must meet eligibility criteria to be enrolled

Prevention and Landlord Engagement

- Coordinated follow up with HP landlords to discuss RRH availability
- Increase access to multi-bedroom units/houses to create shared housing opportunities
- Partner with ESG and ERAP admins to discuss landlord recruitment and information sharing

New SSVF HP Screener Coming

- Simplified Stage 1 Screener to allow for staff discretion and Housing Problem Solving
- Revised Stage 2 Prioritization factors and weighting based on more current research, equity and other priorities
- Updated Companion Guidance, including core competencies and expertise needed to provide trauma-informed, equitable HP Screening
- HMIS Data Elements to go in effect with new tool on October 1st

New Homelessness
Prevention Screener
launching October
1st

September
webinars will
support the launch

Supportive Services for Veteran Families

Thank you

PowerPoint Presentation will be posted on
<http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvfuniversity.asp>

Questions?

Go To: <http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp>

Email: SSVF@va.gov